

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-30

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APPROVED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY BY A RAPHEL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

USINT ALGIERS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MANAMA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 144601

EXDIS, TOSEC 299, ZFF BRUSSELS ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

SUBJECT:RELEASE OF KHARTOUM MURDERERS

KUWAIT POUCH MUSCAT AND DOHA; BEIRUT POUCH BAGHDAD

FOR AMBASSADOR OR CHARGE FROM ACTING SECRETARY

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1. FYI: WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE EGYPTIAN AND

SAUDI ARABIAN GOVERNMENTS AS WELL AS THE SUDANESE TO EXPRESS OUR DEEP CONCERN OVER THE RELEASE OF THE BSO MURDERERS. THIS CONCERN HAS TWO ASPECTS: FIRST, WE ARE OUTRAGED THAT THESE CONFESSED AND CONVICTED MURDERERS OF AMERICAN AND BELGIAN DIPLOMATS SHOULD NOT BE REQUIRED TO SERVE SENTENCES HANDED DOWN BY SUDANESE COURT. SECONDLY, WE FEEL THAT THIS ACTION BY THE SUDANESE, AND IMPRESSION THAT OTHER ARAB GOVERNMENTS CONDONE IT, ARE PRODUCING AN OUTCRY IN PUBLIC OPINION AND THE CONGRESS THAT WILL HAVE A HARMFUL EFFECT ON OUR EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE ARABS AND TO MAINTAIN MOMENTUM TOWARD PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. WHILE THE EGYPTIANS ALSO HAVE COME IN FOR SOME CRITICISM FOR RECEIVING KHARTOUM TERRORISTS, THIS REACTION MAY NOW BE MUTED SOMEWHAT BY STATEMENT BY DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN AT JUNE 28 NOON BRIEFING THAT QUOTE WE HAVE INFORMATION THAT THE TERRORISTS ARE IN PRISON IN EGYPT. UNQUOTE.

END FYI.

2. WE BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT THAT OTHER ARAB NATIONS ALSO UNDERSTAND OUR CONCERN OVER THIS MATTER. ACTION ADDRESSEES ARE THEREFORE INSTRUCTED TO APPROACH HOST GOVERNMENTS AT HIGHEST LEVELS TO EXPRESS USG'S SENSE OF OUTRAGE AT THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE SUDANESE AND OUR CONCERN AT THE ALREADY EVIDENT ADVERSE EFFECT ON PUBLIC OPINION IN THE U.S., WHICH TENDS TO BE GENERALIZED AGAINST ALL ARAB COUNTRIES IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY PUBLIC DISASSOCIATION BY THOSE COUNTRIES FROM SUDANESE ACTION. YOU SHOULD STATE THAT THE IMPRESSION GIVEN TO AMERICAN AS WELL AS WORLD PUBLIC OPINION IS THAT ARAB GOVERNMENTS CONDONE TERRORISM. YOU SHOULD EMPHASIZE IMPORTANCE OF PRESERVING ARAB IMAGE IN U.S. PUBLIC OPINION AND CONGRESS IF USG IS TO BE ABLE TO CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS TOWARD BETTER RELATION WITH THE ARABS AND TOWARD A JUST AND LASTING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

3. WE APPRECIATE THE DELICACY OF EACH ARAB GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON THE ISSUE OF PALESTINIAN TERRORISM, AND WE UNDERSTAND THE SENSITIVITIES AROUSED BY THE CYCLES OF

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TERRORISM AND RETALIATION ON THE ISRAELI-LEBANON BORDER. WE HAVE TAKEN A POSITION AGAINST ALL VIOLENCE WHICH KILLS INNOCENT PEOPLE, AND WE WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO SAY CONVINCINGLY THAT TERRORISM WILL STOP IF THERE IS MOVEMENT TOWARD A JUST PEACE. HOWEVER, FOR THIS POSITION TO BE BELIEVED, AN ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENT IS THAT RESPONSIBLE ARAB GOVERNMENTS MAKE CLEAR THEY WILL NOT ACCEPT TERRORISM AS AN INSTRUMENT OF POLICY.

THE EVIDENCE SO FAR IS THAT TERRORISM AS AN INSTRUMENT OF PRESSURE ON THE UNITED STATES IS CONDONED OR AT LEAST NOT DISPUTED, AND THIS WILL BE BELIEVED UNTIL SOME ARAB GOVERNMENT PUTS ITSELF ON RECORD OTHERWISE.

4. WE DO NOT PRESUME TO SAY HOW THE ARAB GOVERNMENTS SHOULD EXPRESS THEIR INDIVIDUAL DECISIONS ON THE SUBJECT BUT WE FEEL IT IMPERATIVE THAT HOST GOVERNMENTS SHOULD HAVE VIEWS OF THE UNITED STATES AS IT CONSIDERS ITS POSITION. WE DEEPLY FEAR THAT THE IMPACT OF THIS DEVELOPMENT ON PUBLIC OPINION IN THE UNITED STATES AND IN OUR CONGRESS MAY SERIOUSLY DAMAGE OUR EFFORTS TO BUILD A HEALTHY COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ARAB COUNTRIES.

5. FOR SANAA, MUSCAT, TRIPOLI, BAGHDAD: WE LEAVE TO YOUR DISCRETION WHETHER AN APPROACH ALONG ABOVE LINES WOULD BE USEFUL.

6. FOR AMMAN: WE REALIZE THAT GOJ'S POSITION HAS BEEN CORRECT AND COURAGEOUS ON SUBJECT OF TERRORISM, BUT YOU MAY WISH TO INFORM GOJ OF OUR DEMARCHES IN OTHER CAPITALS.

7. PLEASE REPORT REACTIONS. SISCO

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